

EACC NEWS

The East Asia Christian Conference is an organ of continuing fellowship and co-operation among the Churches and Christian Councils in East Asia.

Secretary for Information: Ruth K. Cadwallader

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MCGAVRAN LEADS SEMINAR ON CHURCH GROWTH

BANGKOK - "We are standing at the beginning of the missionary enterprise, at the threshold of the discipling of the nations. At this very time, the world, a mosaic of peoples, is much more responsive than it has ever been. People after people is now winnable. Segment after segment can be discipled." So declared Dr. Donald McGavran, Dean of the School of World Mission and Institute of Church Growth at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California, at a Seminar held in Bangkok December 1 - 4.

Dr. McGavran, a well known author and editor of Eerdmans Church Growth Series, is currently on a year's sabbatical leave and will be participating in twelve seminars on Church Growth around the world before returning to his Seminary in March, 1972. He has already been in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, to Bombay, India for the next two months.

In his lectures Dr. McGavran maintained that God wants church growth; that it is theologically required and a test of a church's faithfulness. Finding the lost and bringing them back to the Father's House is a chief and irreplaceable purpose of missions to Africa, Latin America and Asia, he said.

"The West is suffering from a loss of nerve and most 'mainline' missions are pulling back when they should be putting more workers into the field. The strategy of conciliar mission doesn't fit today. A missionary should never be sent to work in the Church; he should be the one who carries the message to the people beyond the church and be the cutting edge."

Dr. McGavran claimed to base his assertions on facts accumulated over a lifetime of missionary work and scientific research of over a hundred situations.

SEARV DIRECTOR AT RADIO WORKSHOP IN BURMA

BANGKOK - Mr. Constantino Bernardez, Executive Director of the South East Asia Radio Voice (SEARV), Manila, visited the EACC office here last week on his way to Rangoon where he conducted a Radio Writing Workshop from 9th to 11th December. Over twenty-five participants from many parts of the country attended the Workshop. The Rev. Thomas Lung, Director of the Audio Visual Evangelism Committee of the Hong Kong Christian Council was the other main leader from abroad.

Mr. Bernardez was accompanied on this trip by Mr. Jose Wenceslao the engineering director of SEARV. Prior to their arrival in Bangkok these two executives and Mr. Mathew Ogawa (Japan) a member of the SEARV Directorate were in Korea to study the operations and facilities of the Christian Broadcasting Services in that country. The three persons forming a Summary and Evaluation Team on behalf of the World Association of Christian Communication (WACC), visited broadcasting stations in Seoul, Taegu, Pusan, Kwangyu and Iri. The team has reported generally in favour of a grant of half a million dollars requested by the Christian Broadcasting Service of Korea from WACC and Inter-Media (USA).

On their way from Seoul to Rangoon Mr. Bernardez and Mr. Wenceslao visited also a number of SEARV-related centres in Hong Kong and Bangkok.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION INSTITUTE

BANGALORE - Twenty-eight people in managerial positions in Church institutions met here for a three-week Institute on Church Administration which concluded on November 24th.

Participants were administrators in church institutions in the fields of technical education, secondary and higher education, farming, pharmaceuticals, and printing, and those holding administrative responsibilities in Dioceses. They represented many different church traditions and came from several parts of India.

The faculty consisted of people qualified and experienced in their respective fields, from firms such as Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Indian Telephone Industries, and Bharath Electronics.

Communication was pinpointed as the single most important ingredient for the successful running of institutions and for helping workers to identify themselves with the goals and objectives of the institutions. Effectiveness of participative management was acclaimed as that which can bring in a new and creative dimension to most of the institutions in India.

Practical aspects of purchase, store and inventory as well as finance and cost accounting were also dealt with by the leaders of the Institute.

A report on the Institute says that the participants shared their experiences and went back with a vision of higher efficiency for their institutions based on modern methods of management.

CHURCHES OF JAPAN AND NORTH AMERICA TO ENTER NEW RELATIONSHIP

ATAMI - At the "Consultation on Future Directions and Policies of Japan-North America Cooperation" held here November 18 - 19 six persons from Canada and US representing the Inter-Board Committee for Christian Work in Japan (IBC) met with about fifty Japanese leaders of the United Church of Christ in Japan (Kyodan), the Christian Social Work League and the IBC-related Schools Councils and the Councils of Cooperation (COC). As a result, it is reported that a "two-way multi-lane highway" will replace the present one-way street of mission cooperation.

A plan to replace the IBC with a new instrument was presented by Rev. L. Newton Thurber of New York. The new instrument called the Japan-North American Committee for Ecumenical Mission (JNACEM) will include persons with functional responsibilities and those from cooperating denominations having geographical area responsibilities so as to involve the full life of participating North American Churches. The JNACEM will be a channel for Japanese participation in mission in North America besides being the same for North American participation in Japan. Japanese Churches and denominations other than those in the present IBC will be invited to send members to the Committee.

The Rev. Yoichiro Saeki the Chairman of COC Policy Committee emphasized in the paper he presented the need for Japanese bodies to assume fuller financial responsibility for missionary salaries and work budgets and the desirability of mutuality and cooperative efforts at every point of North America-Japan involvement. Both the Rev. Dr. Charles Germany of the US and Rev. Frank Carey of Canada cited in their speeches the search for national identity and the failure of North American Churches to respond fully to the social and spiritual challenges of the times.

The Consultation recommended, among others, that the COC prepare its restructure plan and study the patterns of shared support for missionaries, and that IBC prepare to reform itself as the JNACEM drawing the COC to participate in the drafting of the JNACEM constitution.

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DEVELOPMENT IN THE PACIFIC

"We have in our hands the responsibility to carve the future of our Pacific people and their destiny as we progress very rapidly into modernization". So said Mr. Oala Oala-Rurua of Papua-New Guinea chairing the 1971 Conference of the South Pacific Commission at its meeting in October at the Commission headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia. The Conference explored cooperative projects on varied problems such as rhinoceros beetle infestation and adaption of educational programmes to fit Pacific needs. School-leavers and pollution, tourism and regional trade, employment and preservation of traditional culture were other points of concern.

The South Pacific Commission completing 25 years of regional technical assistance programme had achieved amazing results in development. According to a report, though its financial backing has been compared to a trickle in the ocean (40 cts. per person, US\$1.24 million budgeted for 1972) the trickles have been, so well placed that they have cut through the sandy beaches of Pacific islands' needs to grow into rivers of resolve.

The Commission's programme encompasses five million people spread over twelve million square miles, provides for development-oriented technical assistance and stimulates through research studies and training courses contacts and exchange of experiences between the peoples of different islands.

ASIAN BAPTIST YOUTH TO MEET IN THAILAND

BANGKOK - The fourth Conference of the Asian Baptist Youth Fellowship will be held at Chonburi, Thailand, about 100 miles from here from 30 December 1971 to 4 January 1972. The theme of the Conference is "A Living Sacrifice".

Usually a few hundred youth from many countries of Asia attend these conferences which are held once in five years. The last conference was held in Iloilo City, Philippines in 1966 and the previous one in Tokyo, Japan in 1961.

The largest delegations to this year's Conference of an estimated 300 delegates are expected to come from Thailand (75), Hong Kong (50), Malaysia-Singapore (47), USA (20), Australia (17) and India (Assam) (42). There will be a few representatives from Japan, Okinawa, Vietnam, Korea, New Zealand and Indonesia.

The programme includes five main morning addresses which are to be delivered by Dr. Karl Heinz Walter, Youth Director of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), Dr. Theo Thenaik also of the staff of BWA, Mr. Richard Gunasekera (Ceylon), Revs. A. B. Masilamani (India) and Won Tetsongkram (Thailand).

Bible studies will be led by the Rev. Dr. Willy Wickremasinghe who was formerly the Chairman of the Baptist Church in Ceylon.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATORS VISIT EACC GENERAL SECRETARY

Dr. Miss Ivy Chou of Sarawak, Dr. Kosuke Koyama the Director of the Association of Theological Schools in South East Asia and Dr. Alan C. Thomson the Director of the Foundation of Theological Schools in South East Asia (FTE) called on UKyaw Than the General Secretary of the EACC on December 4, 1971. The occasion served to introduce Dr. Chou who will take up on 1st January 1972 the Asian Directorship of the World Council of Churches Theological Education Fund and will succeed Dr. Alan Thomson as Director of FTE in July 1972.

They discussed mainly about the ways and means of popularizing the theological thinking of the EACC among its members, specially those of theological institutions. They also looked at the need for the EACC to provide opportunities for its members to keep up with the theological thinking of the Church in China since the Revolution.

After their visit to Bangkok, Dr. Thomson proceeded to Burma and Dr. Koyama to the Philippines and Taiwan, both to visit theological schools and educators. It is expected that Dr. Ivy Chou will be working closely with the EACC in her new tenure of duty.

ALL AFRICA YOUTH AND STUDENT TO MEET IN NIGERIA

The World Student Christian Federation (Africa and Malagasy Region) and the All Africa Conference of Churches are jointly sponsoring the All Africa Youth and Student Conference to take place in Ibadan, Nigeria, December 20 - 30, 1971.

Under the theme "In Search of a New Society" the conference will deal with four key issues: the problem of development; the struggle for liberation by dependent nations; the need for education to be modified in order that it prepares for changing the environment; and the discovery of an African Christian identity based on indigenization and increased self-reliance.

The organizing Secretaries of the conference are Mr. Aaron Tolen of the WSCF staff and Mrs. Mercy Oduyoye the AACC Youth Secretary.

The EACC has been invited to send an observer to the conference.

WORLD COUNCIL SECRETARY VISITS ASIAN CHURCHES

Dr. Ian Fraser of the staff of the World Council of Churches (WCC) passed through Thailand this week on an extensive trip covering Australia, Papua-New Guinea, the Philippines, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Burma and Ceylon. Within the WCC Unit on Education and Communication Dr. Fraser is responsible for Laity Studies and is trying to find what springs of new life are discernable in the churches of the Pacific and Asia and discover lay resources as potential leadership for the future.

In Australia, the Caribbean and Japan, he conducted consultations on Leisure Tourism and hopes to investigate the situation in Ceylon, his next stop.

Asked for his impression or comments on the Church in Asia; he remarked on the need to use the languages of the East at world level meetings of churches; and on the new sensitiveness in the churches to the problem of drawing leadership from those sectors struggling for dignity.

He further said "Denominational tags do not mean anything in many places where people of all denominations and philosophies are working together as teams for the development of the life of the Church. Ecumenism is not an embroidery but an absolute essential of the Church." He spoke of the communities of Christians in new housing areas consisting of all kinds of denominational backgrounds. "Their way of life immediately makes an impact on the society; but those who seek to join the Christian community cannot be baptised for baptism is denominational", he concluded.

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Mrs. Ruth Cadwallader, the Information Secretary of the EACC has gone on her quarterly visit to the Asian Christian Service projects. She is away for about ten days, 7th to 16th, seeing ACS work in Saigon, Vietnam and Vientiane, Laos.

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There will be no issue of the EACC News on 1 January 1972 on account of Christmas vacation.

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